

Mr. Gilmer Again.

The antecedents of Mr. Gilmer upon matters of State policy we have already referred to. His connection with every movement for the change of the basis of representation, and his denunciation of the existing basis as tyrannical in its most odious form, we have seen, as also his proposition to make the organic law of the State the foot-ball of a mere temporary majority at the polls, thus doing away with the very idea of constitutional government, which is, that the organic law should interpose certain safe-guards to the rights of minorities, against the hasty action or unrestrained caprice of mere majorities acting under temporary excitement.

We mentioned some time since Mr. Gilmer's position upon the distribution of the School Fund. In looking over the journals of the Senate 1848-9 we find Mr. Gilmer offering the following amendment to the Bill to consolidate and amend the acts heretofore passed on the subject of Common Schools.

Be it further enacted, That the Literary or School Fund, shall hereafter be distributed among the several Counties in this State, according to the free white population thereof.

Had this amendment passed it would have seriously diminished the amount received for the education of the children of New Hanover, Duplin, Sampson, Brunswick, Bladen, Columbus, and the whole East-look at it men of the Cape Fear and Neuse country.

Let us now turn for a few moments to his position, and the position of the convention whose candidate he is, upon national politics, in connection with the existing state of things. That convention endorsed the Philadelphia platform of the 21st February 1854 known as the "verbiage platform," because its meaning is so covered up, that one of the Free Soil delegates to the Philadelphia convention said he could go the platform well enough, for the order might elect their candidates upon it before any body could find out what it meant.

Let us look at a point or two in this strange "verbiage platform." Section 7th goes for "The recognition of the right of the native born and naturalized citizens of the United States, permanently residing in any territory thereof, to frame their constitution and laws, and to regulate their domestic and social affairs in their own mode, subject only to the provisions of the Federal Constitution, with the privilege of admission into the Union whenever they have the requisite population for one representative in Congress." So far, so good. Let us now turn to the 13th section of the same platform, which consists of a regular bill of indictment against the administration of President Pierce.

One or two of the counts in that bill of indictment read as follows: "Opposition to the reckless and unwise course of the present administration in the general management of our national affairs," "as shown in re-opening sectional agitation by the repeal of the Missouri Compromise; as shown in granting to unauthorized foreigners the right of suffrage in Kansas and Nebraska." Now look at this thing.—The right claimed in the 7th section for the people of the territories to mould their own institutions, would have been impossible of exercise without the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and yet here we find this platform first affirming a principle, and then denouncing bitterly the legislation necessary to carry this principle into effect. Is comment necessary? Again, this bill of indictment charges upon the present administration a reckless and unwise course "in granting to unauthorized foreigners the right of suffrage in Kansas and Nebraska," while, in fact, the clause inserted in the Kansas and Nebraska bills, approved by President Pierce, is identical with the corresponding clause in every territorial bill approved by the candidate of the order—Millard Fillmore.

The same bill of indictment charges that the reckless and unwise course of the present administration is shown "in the corruptions which pervade some departments of the government; as shown in disgracing meritorious naval officers through prejudice or caprice." Be it remembered that the records of the Pierce administration show no Galpin or Gardner frauds, nor has the suspicion of complicity in such transactions ever attached to a single member of the present administration, as suspicion certainly did attach to members of both the Taylor and Fillmore cabinets. The movement for reform in the navy is no new one. It was recommended by Fillmore and others, and it necessarily felt by every man at all acquainted with the state of the naval service. It was perfectly understood that a big fuss would be made by the incompetent, who would claim the honors of martyrdom if dropped, and it remained for James C. Dobbin to meet this fuss and do what others had admitted to be necessary without having the nerve to meet the emergency. That is the amount of the whole matter. Some worthy men may, and no doubt have suffered, and they ought to have justice done them. But the majority of the dismissed belong to the class that swell big at watering places, but would sooner resign than go to sea.

The Greensboro Convention passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That we are opposed to the policy of the General Government squandering the public lands to provide homesteads for foreign paupers and convicts.

Now, it is a notorious fact, that where one acre of land has been donated or squandered in any way during President Pierce's administration, fifty were given away by bills bearing the signature of Millard Fillmore.

It is very strange, indeed, that a gentleman, to whom, at least, courtesy is due from a people for whose interests he exerted himself, in the matter of the River and Bar appropriation, cannot come among us and spend a few days in our mild climate, without having his motives impugned, and the cry raised that he has been imported; or that, in seeking renewed energy for the discharge of his official duties, he should be charged with a criminal neglect of such duties. The whole explanation of this strange affair is to be found in the fact that, at the solicitation of some of his friends here, Mr. Allen consented to address his fellow-citizens of the South in advocacy of the great principles of the Democratic party. It is not pretended that he has said one word indicating anything like interference in our local or State contests, nor that his remarks were anything else than national, in the broadest sense of the word. For our own part, it would seem to us that Southern men, of all parties, would be pleased to listen to such true national sentiments from a Northern man, as were expressed by Col. Allen—pleased to know that there is at the North a party composed of such men—glad to recognize in it another guarantee for the safety of the country and the perpetuity of the Union. And it does really appear to us impossible that that should be the view of this matter finally taken by all reflecting and fair men. That there will be some carpers, we anticipate. Some will be certain to find fault with anything Democratic. Such are wedded to their idols, and impervious to reason where their prejudices interfere. It is a weakness of their nature, for which, we suppose, they can hardly be considered answerable.

No doubt, a correspondent of Thursday's Herald, who writes under the signature of "Honestas," is an admirer of Mr. Badger. Now, Mr. Badger, when in

the Senate, frequently attended to law business during the sessions of that body. In more than one case he came home to attend to court business in North Carolina, and plead in important cases in the Supreme Court. We never heard any complaint of him. We do not say what we do as preferring any charge against Mr. Badger, but simply state a fact or two from which our readers can draw their own inferences.

We return our sincere thanks to Hon. David S. Reid, Senator from this State, for a very valuable book, documents, forwarded to us some time since. The absence of the editor, during the greater part of last week, prevented their being noticed at the time when received, and a pressure of other matters this week has caused them to be neglected until this time. We repeat our thanks for the courtesy of our Hon. Senator, from whom we have received many other acts of kindness.

We have received from Dex & Edwards, through Mr. Whitaker, of this town, Putnam for May, which appears to be a good number, and is free from politics. Also, "Household Words," edited by Dickens, which is always amusing and instructive—25 cents per number. Also, the School Fellow, for May, a capital work for the young folks—10 cents per number. For sale by Whitaker.

Parker H. French has quarrelled with Col. Walker and left San Juan for Aspinwall. A good ride for Walker. The latter is said to be at the head of seven thousand men, and, at the last dates, was marching against the Costa Ricans, who were expected to invade Nicaragua.

## Later from Europe.

The Steamer Arago, arrived at New York on the 23d, and the Arabia at Halifax on the same day.—The Arago brings Liverpool dates to the 9th and the Arabia to the 12th inst. The latter brings no news of importance.

Among the passengers by the Arago are the Hon. James Buchanan and M. Dubois, minister from Holland to the United States.

The Arago left Cowes on the morning of the 10th. She came south of the Banks, experienced moderate weather, and saw no ice.

She brings the second edition of Wednesday's (the 9th) London Times.

The steamship Edinburgh, from New York, arrived in the Clyde on the 4th. The Hermann, also from New York, arrived off Cowes on the 6th; and the Arabia, from Boston, at Liverpool on the same day.

The French steamer Barcelona arrived out on the 5th.

The two English steamers that went in search of the Pacific had returned to Galway, after a fruitless cruise of nine days.

The proceedings of the Peace Congress continue. It is said that Austria gives trouble by persistently refusing to fix the time for evacuating the principalities. Austria's pretext is the necessity of protecting the country against disorder until a regular administration shall have been established, though she is bound by the treaty to quit the Ottoman territory on the conclusion of peace.

Russia, it is said, strongly adheres to Austria's position.

Later intelligence, however, states that the Austrian troops were leaving the principalities.

The French army is to be reduced from six hundred thousand to four hundred thousand troops.

It is believed that Russia will send an ambassador to Turin as soon as the ratifications are exchanged. Advances from St. Petersburg state that the prohibition of the export of Russian produce has been repealed.

The czar had issued a ukase, stating that the two fleets of the Black Sea were to be reduced to six hundred and six of the Azov are to be reinstated.

Many grain-laden vessels lying at Odessa have received orders to proceed to Marseilles. A considerable fall had taken place in the market at the latter place in consequence.

It was reported in Berlin that the British cabinet had decided to reject the proposition for a capitalization of the Sound dues on the terms offered by Denmark, but would make a proposition itself.

A dispatch from Paris states that the allies have sent orders to their fleets to raise all blockades which have kept Russian vessels in neutral ports.

The French government denies contemplating sending any expedition to Madagascar, but advises from Toulon show the contrary.

The Russian Minister of Finance issued a notice on the 5th inst., that, in consequence of the signing of a treaty of peace, merchant vessels of the western powers would be admitted to Russian ports.

Le Nord states that the exchange of ratifications would be effected by the 20th.

The English money market was but little changed. The funds, however, were rather heavy, and foreign securities were improving.

W. D. Young, ship-owner and insurance broker of Liverpool, had failed for a large amount.

Further news by the Arabia.

HALIFAX, April 24.—The foreign files by the Arabia contain the following additional items:

THE PEACE CONGRESS.—The festivities of the Plenipotentiaries continue. Ali Pasha was to give a grand ball in Christian style. A banquet by the Emperor to all the Plenipotentiaries is appointed for the 12th.

It is said that the Russian Plenipotentiaries proposed that Count Bunsen, Ali Pasha, and M. Bourquigny should compose the commission to definitely arrange the Moldavia-Wallachian government, but the proposal was rejected, and persons who have not taken an active part in the conference will be selected.

The Opinion of Turin gives, upon good authority, the conditions contained in the Treaty of Peace lately concluded at Paris. They are affirmed to be as follows:

First.—The neutralization of the Black Sea; Russia not to keep there more than ten ships of war armed, for the defence of her coasts. Second.—Nicolaiaff is to be reduced to a merchant port, with an engagement that no ships of war shall be constructed beyond the number agreed to as above. Third.—Russia is to be reduced to a merchant port, with an engagement that no ships of war shall be constructed beyond the number agreed to as above. Fourth.—The fortifications of Bomarsund are not to be reconstructed. Fifth.—Russia cedes part of the territory of Bessarabia, comprising the fortress of Ismail. Sixth.—Russia renounces the exclusive protectorate of the Danubian Principalities. Seventh.—Russia equally renounces the exclusive protectorate of the Crimea. Eighth.—The free navigation of the Danube is guaranteed to all States, without exception. Ninth.—This article refers to a commission which is to be sent into the Principalities to study the questions of the frontiers and the mode of government.

THE CRIMEA.—The only news is the improved health of the French troops, both in the hospitals and in the Crimea.

ENGLAND.—The treaty of peace has caused several failures in London among speculators. Syers, Walker & Co., East India and general merchants, have failed for £260,000. Assets consist chiefly of produce which cost £220,000, but which has undergone an enormous depreciation. The firm had agencies in the East and West Indies, the Cape of Good Hope, Mauritius, &c.

Saunders & Harrison, seed crushers, oil refiners, and soap makers, have failed for £60,000. A dividend hoped for of £150 in the pound. The stoppage of this house caused great surprise.

The liabilities of W. O. Young, ship owner and insurance agent, amount to £120,000. Assets consist of ships and other unencumbered property, and a fair dividend is hoped for.

Thomas Harrison, ship owner and asphalt maker. Small direct liabilities, but a party to the accommodation paper of Syers, Walker & Co. Wollet & Nephew, also a small liabilities, but mixed up with Syers, Walker & Co.

On the 7th inst., the sum of £412,000 in gold from Australia arrived at London.

Mr. Dallas, the American Minister, had an audience of the Queen on the 4th inst., to deliver his credentials.

The grand Naval Review by Queen Victoria of all the ships that can be collected, is postponed till the 22d or 23d inst., by which time the treaty of peace will be ratified.

The Crimean Inquiry Commission continues its sittings. Lord Lucan was on trial.

Steamers are being fitted up to bring the army home from the Crimea.

For the Journal.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—The policy of nominating candidates for office by means of conventions, has often been made the object of censure, especially by those whose political views, for the time being, have led them to oppose such nominations. This opposition has not, however, been confined altogether to aspirants to office or their friends. Many patriotic and disinterested persons have adopted similar views, but without a thorough consideration of their tendency and results. Allow me, Messrs. Editors, to present, as briefly as practicable, some observations on this subject, which, in the present condition of affairs in this country, I trust will not be deemed unreasonable.

Conventions are necessary to concerted action. Where anything like a formidable opposition exists, it is necessary, in order to be successful, that the party encountering such opposition should be so organized as to act unitedly. The army does not march under the command of a single general, but is marshalled under a single commander. In order that the whole army may act with harmonious unity, if by several commanders, possessing equal authority, distractions might arise; the army might be separated into divisions, acting upon no concerted plan, and these might be met by the enemy and beaten in detail, when, with united action, a single leader, victory would be theirs.

It is recorded in an aged man of great wisdom, that, finding himself about to die, he called together his several sons, and told them that he wished to bequeath to them a legacy more valuable than silver or gold. Producing a bundle of switches firmly bound together, he desired that they would break them apart.

This was found to be impossible. He then untied the bundle, and taking the switches one by one in his trembling hands, snapped them. "Now, my sons," said the venerable man, "you see that, though the strength of a giant would not avail to break these small switches when firmly united, yet, when separated, the feeble fingers of a dying old man can easily accomplish the task. Be united, therefore, and prosper. If you allow yourselves to be alienated from each other, you will fall an easy prey to your enemies."

Concerted action cannot be obtained except by consultation among the various branches of a party. There must be a meeting together of the friends of different interests, to agree upon some plan of operations against the common enemy. This meeting together for consultation constitutes a "convention." It is nothing more and nothing less. It is based upon the principle that a man ought to prefer the good of his party to the advantage of any mere individual member of it, even though that member may happen to be himself. And when a man is selfish enough to desire his own advantage more than the welfare of his party, he has no business in a convention.

Conventions have been objected to on the ground that they can be so arranged as to misrepresent the wishes of the party whose organs they are. It is recorded that they can be "packed" with men who will strive to promote a particular interest rather than the good of the whole. So may houses be objected to on the ground that they may be constructed of such materials as to render them dangerous habitations. But this would be no argument against the building of houses. It might be an argument against the use of decayed wood for that purpose.

Just as with the question about conventions, so with the question about houses. The objection that they may be constructed of such materials as to render them dangerous habitations is no argument against them. It only proves that they may be abused, and furnishes a strong reason why the people should see to it that such delegates as are appointed as will reflect their wishes.

It has been objected to conventions that they take from the people the free exercise of the right of suffrage—that they deprive the people the candidate of their choice. But this is the same as saying that State legislatures, that it takes from the people the right of self-government. The people are willing to obey the laws made by their own representatives, because such laws are made by the people themselves, using the convenient instrumentality of the legislative body. Just so with conventions; if the people send delegates elected by themselves, to a convention, the nominations made by the convention are made by the voters themselves, using the instrumentality of delegates in order to consult together with the least inconvenience.

If every member of the Democratic party of New Hanover county could be brought together at Long Creek Bridge, on the 29th of May next, and the wishes of every man expressed and duly considered in relation to the nominations to be made then and there, that would be a perfect convention. But such an assembly would be impracticable, and it is not necessary that it should be. Let the people take the matter into their own hands. It will then be their convention, composed of their delegates, appointed to carry out their wishes. In every district where a meeting has not been held already, there should be a meeting of the Democratic voters after due notice, for the purpose of choosing delegates. In the choice of these every man is entitled to be consulted, and the majority should rule. Every man will then know the wishes of his district, and will be prepared to carry them out. The people being thus truly represented by their own constituted agents, will feel bound to sustain the action of the convention. The Democratic party being thus fully united need not fear to encounter any opposition open or secret.

If any additional argument were needed in support of these views, it would be found in the fact that our opponents are now united by the most solemn guarantees against division and disunion. They are oath-bound to support the regular nominees of their councils. The Democrats need not oath to make them their duty. They require only that they shall understand their true policy and know what course of action will be best calculated to advance those great principles which they have so much at heart. But the compact organization of our enemy warns us to be on our guard. That enemy is not to be trifled with. Disunion and disunity ranks would now be fatal. Let all true Democrats therefore, in the ensuing campaign present an undivided front upon all questions. By such a course, and such a course alone, we shall accomplish complete success.

A FRIEND TO ORGANIZATION.

The Know-Nothing City Councils have refused the use of Independence Hall to the citizens of Philadelphia, who desired to offer to Mr. Buchanan their congratulations on his return home, and to testify their approval of his course as Minister to England.

Such disrespect to a distinguished citizen of their own State is not only a mark of bigotry and bitterness, but a very foolish move in a political point of view. Even the Northern American, the great organ of the old whig and the new condition party in Pennsylvania, united to do honor to the able diplomatist.

Bocha, the Harpist, died in Australia on the 7th of January. He had gone on there in company with Madam Bishop.

Probably a Heavily Hoax.

New York, Apr. 22.—A dispatch has been received in this city, from Provincetown, Mass., which states that a bottle has drifted ashore containing information that the steamship Pacific was on the Grand Banks, with her masts gone and otherwise out of order, and that she required immediate assistance, which was sent. Capt. ASA ELDREDGE, of the Atlantic, was ordered to go to the rescue of the Pacific, believing the story, however, to be a heartless hoax.

Disrespect to Mr. Buchanan by the Philadelphia Councils.

PHILADELPHIA, April 24.—In the Common Council this afternoon a resolution was offered tendering the use of Independence Hall to Mr. Buchanan, in which to receive the congratulations of his friends, which led to a heated and a political debate of a most rabid character, including aspersions on President Pierce, &c. The resolution was finally defeated by a vote of 33 to 20.

In the Select Council a resolution of a similar import was also presented and likewise rejected by a vote of 13 to 11. This disrespect to the distinguished Pennsylvania causes much angry feeling among all classes of citizens.

Great Capture at Montreal.

MONTRÉAL, April 21.—Messrs. Haviland, Routh & Co. have failed in this city for \$1,250,000 sterling.

From Havana.

New York, April 22.—The ship Quaker City arrived this afternoon from Havana, with dates to the 18th. She brings no news.

From the Banquet Banquet.

The first bird of Spring attempted to sing. He fell from the sky and was killed. The bird was found in the street.

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The Convention of the Democratic party to nominate a candidate for Governor assembled in Raleigh, on Wednesday the 16th inst., and as most of the county meetings had recommended the nomination of Governor Biagg for re-election, we suppose it has been done. While we shall oppose Gov. Biagg's re-election on political grounds, we take this occasion to record our high appreciation of the talents and qualifications of the present Governor. We have known him many years—he is a gentleman in the truest sense of the term, his abilities are of the highest order, and deserves all the honors which the Democracy can possibly confer on him, and if the American candidate is doomed to defeat in August, of which we have no fears, it will be a satisfaction, to us at least, to know that the gubernatorial honors will fall to one so worthy to wear them as Thomas Biagg.

While we shall, therefore, oppose the re-election of Governor Biagg, because our honest convictions lead us in opposition to the party of which he is the standard-bearer, our appreciation of the man and our sense of propriety will prevent us from descending to that abuse which too often disgraces the political press.

Political opponents, and especially editors, should not forget, in the heat and excitement of a political canvass, what is due from one gentleman to another.

THE FIRST LOVE OF THE GREAT NAPOLEON.—Eugenie Desiree Clary, the daughter of a merchant of Marseilles, was the first love of the Great Napoleon. Joseph Bonaparte married her sister Julie. Desiree was already attached to a young Swedish merchant, but her father would not allow the union. Napoleon presented his suit with ardor, but without success. One of his vehement advisers to her, remarkably forecasting his future career, has been quoted as saying: "I will give you the most splendid existence; perhaps I may pass like a meteor, but I dare to assure you that the memory of my passage will remain behind."

The attachment, if it ever existed on her part, soon died away, and during the following winter Napoleon met Josephine, whom he married in March, 1796.—In 1798 Desiree met Bernadotte, then distinguished as a general, and a soldier by the Due de Ponte-Corvo was elected Crown Prince of Sweden; he arrived at the capital of his future kingdom with his wife now in the bloom of womanhood. A great ball took place, at which was present a Burgess of repute, a man of influence, married, and the father of a family; with this honorable citizen the Crown Prince went forth to dance—he was no more than the son of a former lover, and from that day, whether as Crown Prince or Queen of Sweden, Desiree Clary has always paid a generous attention to M. Arvedsson, the wealthy banker of Stockholm.

He was still living when we were in Sweden, (1850), having attained a good old age, and holding a distinguished position in his order.—The Dances and the Swedes, by C. H. Scott.

Eugenie Desiree Clary is now Dowager Queen of Sweden.

THE MAYOR'S COMPLAINT BOOK.—It is the custom of some of the Mayors at the North to keep complaint books, in which the people may enter complaints of nuisances they want abated. Apropos of these places, the Spirit of the Times gives the following amusing story.

(Scene, Mayor's office, 10 A. M. Enter a bilious looking man, dressed in a seedy coat and black whiskers.)

Safron Gent.—Is the Mayor in?

Mayor W.—Yes, sir.

Gent.—Are you the Mayor?

Mayor (looking dignified).—Sir, I have that honor.

Bilious Citizen.—Have you a book in which people can leave their complaints?

Attentive Dignitary.—Yes, sir; and at once proceeded to open a volume large enough for a country umbrella. The Mayor having seized a pen and dipped it in the ink, proceeded as follows: Will you put your complaint in the book, or do you wish me to do so?

Complaining Subscriber.—Well, as I'm a little in a hurry, you can put it in the book.

Interested Functionary.—What is the complaint?

Sallow Individual.—It is the liver complaint! It is sufficient to say that the ponderous volume was shut in a jiffy. The pen dropped, and when we caught a glimpse of his honor at Hank's, a few moments after, he "confessed the corn," and put on his customary "smile."

THE FORTITUDE OF WOMAN.—A tailor having amassed a fortune by trade, and the shop, and removed to the country, to live in dignified leisure. His wife was a bit of a shrew, and apt, as all wives are, to find out her husband's weak points. One of these was, a shame of his former occupation, and she harped upon the jarring string until the poor wretch was beside himself. Her touch-word, "scissors," spoiled his finest bon mots, and embittered his grandest entertainments; it was flame to tow; he stormed and wheeled; the obnoxious instrument was constantly brandished before his eyes. They were one day on the bank of a river bounding his grounds.

"You observe," said he, "the delta formed by the fork of the river? Its beauty decided me to close the contract."

"Very probable, my dear—it reminds me so much of an open pair of scissors."

One push, and she was struggling in the water. "I will pull you out if you promise never to say that word again!" hallowed the still foaming band.

"Scissors!" shrieked she, and down she went. "Scissors!" as she rose again. The third time she came to the surface too far gone to speak—but, as the water closed over her, she threw up her arms, crossed her fore fingers, and disappeared.

Church Statistics.

The general minutes for 1855-56 of all the Conferences of the M. E. Church, South, twenty-three in number, are now completed, and will soon be issued, for the publishing house, at Nashville, Tenn.

The returns show the following results, in totals, with reference to the preceding reports:

INCREASE.

Travelling preachers.....	2,078	136
Superannuated preachers.....	151	1
Local preachers.....	4,828	209
White membership and probationers.....	447,372	18,881
Colored members and probationers.....	170,195	5,966
Members.....	3,515	144
Decrease.....	627,992	24,689

The total increase reported is 27,662, which is reduced by the decrease in the preceding year to the net increase 24,689, as above given.

The largest white membership reported is for the Georgia Conference, 44,252; the largest colored membership, South Carolina Conference, 39,393; and the largest membership generally, South Carolina, 79,005.

DAVIDIC RUINS.—A tenant of the Moyess estate, England, to build a house, is pulling to pieces one of the most perfect old Druid temples in existence. A few years ago the outer circle of this temple, which is a circular wall of between 200 and 300 feet, from 16 feet distance from this there was an inner circle about 60 feet in diameter. 12 stones of large size in the outer circle represented the 12 signs of the zodiac, and 19 larger in the inner—60 in all—pointed to the lunar cycle. On the south side were two immense boulders—one the Cromlech or altar stone, the other the Logan or rocking stone.—This was below it the reomboid shape, broad at top and tapering below. It measured 8 feet 6 inches along the top by 5 feet, and fully three feet through. Its weight could not have been less than from 9 to 10 tons. The lower extremity of this immense stone was laid on the crown of another boulder slightly indented and deeply sunk in the earth, but so nicely poised that on the slightest touch of the finger it would vibrate six inches on each side and continue rocking for some time, before steadying, when it always sat at rest fairly balanced in the centre.

WHEAT AND FLOUR.—A late letter from Paris says: "The number of barrels of American flour at this moment in store in Havre, is 250,000; of wheat, 251,082 hectolitres. (A hectolitre is about 2 5/8 Winchester bushels.) To these figures add the quantities known to be on sea destined for the port of Havre, viz: 54,000 barrels of flour and 62,000 hectolitres of wheat, and the sum total will be 304,000 barrels of flour and 312,000 hectolitres of wheat."

It is refreshing to come across such a gem as the following:

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From the Banquet Banquet.

THE RAILROADS OF ENGLAND.—The great railroad line from London to Marseilles, a distance of 535 miles, is now completed, except the bridges at Lyons across the two rivers, the Saone and the Rhone, at the junction of which the city stands. These bridges, when finished, will be as fine specimens of workmanship as can anywhere be found. The one across the Rhone is already near done—built of cast iron—and it presents a most beautiful and picturesque view; as seen from a point about half a mile above the junction of the bridge across the Saone are now building in water that is 40 or 50 feet deep.

Great cylinders of cast iron are first planted on the bottom of the river, by some means, I know not how—which reach above the surface of the water. From these the water is pumped out, and the workmen descend in, and build a wall, and carry on the work of raising the piers from the bottom of the river. This bridge across the Saone is approached by a tunnel five or six miles in length. How far it is below the surface of the earth I cannot tell. But it is no uncommon thing in this country to travel for a mile or two at a time through a tunnel, and that too at the rate of about 40 miles per hour. But the railroads in this country are so delightful! There is scarcely any perceptible motion.

The roads are beautifully graded, and then covered with pebbles or small fragments of rock pounded in, so as to make them firm. The sides of the "embankments" are turfed. The tracks are always double, so that there is no danger of collision. The coaches are elegant, and the whole management of the roads is conducted with the strictest reference to the convenience, comfort and safety of the passengers. Travelling by rail in England, and especially on the continent, is much more pleasant, and vastly safer than in the United States. The Express, and the direct trains, as they are called, make but few stoppages on the long routes, and ordinarily not more than one or two minutes at a station. Then everything is so quiet. There is no bustle or noise at the station.